

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

Natural Links

TRANSITIONS

After 20 years of service as food service director, Ellie Solano is leaving Camp Friedenswald, Cassopolis, MI. Many will greatly miss the wisdom, calm, and delicious meals that Ellie has brought to Friedenswald for two decades. Of all her cooking, her Costa Rican meals were a favorite! Thank you, Ellie for your faithful service.



ZOOM CALL

The next MCA programming meeting for June/early July is scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, at 11am CST. Please feel free to join for a part or all of the Zoom call. For login information, contact Olivia Bartel at olivia.bartel@campmennoscah.org

DOVE'S NEST



Dove's Nest Camp Consultation Available!

Two-hour consultations - including written feedback, a phone/Zoom meeting, as well as follow-up - which can be used for:
- Updating current policies
- Processing a situation
- Creating new policies for new activities like virtual camp

Available for very low cost thanks to Schowalter Foundation funding!

Email anna@dovesnest.net
Visit dovesnest.net/camps

CAMP UPDATES

Camp Friedenswald, Cassopolis, MI, www.friedenswald.org

As Camp Friedenswald reopens after months of closure, they are excited to offer a Camp Getaway experience for families and small groups. You can read more about the experience [here](#). (<https://friedenswald.org/camp-getaway-summer-2020/>)

Cove Valley Christian Camp, Mercersberg, PA, www.covevalleycamp.com

Cove Valley Christian Youth Camp is having camp this summer with a modified schedule. As we thought about our existence, we felt that we needed to do what we can to share God's love and hope with campers that are willing to come. Instead of 8 weeks of the summer program we will only have 5. Camps have been combined and there is at least one camp that has a waiting list at this point. In Pennsylvania, the governor has set up a three phase system. If we get to the last phase, we can have overnight camp otherwise they will be day camps. It is a challenge to put together guidelines and practices that will help parents feel safe in sending their children to camp. -Allen Eshleman, Executive Director

Spruce Lake, Canadensis, PA, www.sprucelake.org

Friday, June 19 was the day we've hoped and prayed for! Our county went into the Green Phase as we transition into the "new normal" of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. We've already been serving Day Camp children, seasonal campers, and some church groups of fewer than 25 people, as allowed by the Yellow Phase. "Going Green" eases many restrictions while still prioritizing public health. So here at Spruce Lake, groups of up to 250 are now welcome. Our dining buffet has been modified and being served by our staff. Wilderness Camp (overnight) will now begin July 12, with camp weeks modified to three days.

We're also offering special rates for groups and individuals now through September 3, 2020. - Grace Nolt, Creative Composition & Design

Bethany Birches, Plymouth, VT, www.bethanybirches.org

Bethany Birches is busy preparing for a very modified resident camp. Staffing will be at normal levels, while camper attendance will be at about half the usual levels. We are working to round out our staff and need a "health aid" who would report to the camp doctor. We also need to finalize kitchen positions, including the lead, and finalize counselors. Notify us of your interest here: <http://www.bethanybirches.org/staff-app-1/>. If you have questions, please call the office at 802-672-5220 or email camp@bethanybirches.org. Thanks, Brandon Bergey, Executive Director

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Shekinah, SK



Little Eden, MI

MENNONITE CAMPING ASSOCIATION

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions Nature Photo Contest

Calling all Anabaptists! The [Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions](#) (CSCS)* recognizes the importance of getting people out in nature to relax, explore and delight in God's good creation. This summer CSCS is hosting a Nature Photo Contest. Anyone with interest is encouraged to participate.

Head through your front door, find a piece of nature outside that captures your attention (perhaps a weed, an insect or a tree), take a picture and do some research. In one or two paragraphs tell us about the picture you snapped and how it will be affected by climate change. Post your photo by Friday, July 31st on Instagram and include the hashtag #CSCSNaturePhotoContest. The top two winners will receive one of these prizes: 1) A square basket from Ten Thousand Villages or 2) a \$50 bookstore gift certificate.

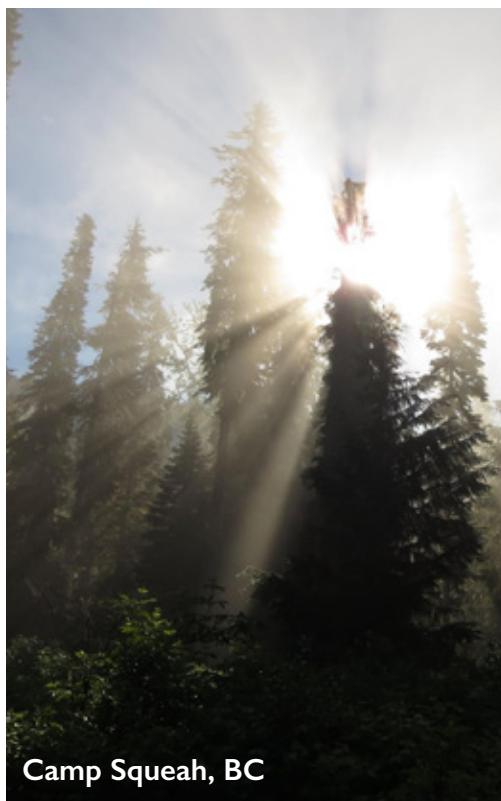
*The Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions is a young organization that seeks to connect with Anabaptists across Canada and the United States. In our four years of existence we have strived to advance thinking and action in Anabaptist and other faith communities to mitigate climate change. Additionally, our work promotes sustainable living, environmental justice and care for creation. We envision Anabaptists fully engaged in actions which mitigate climate change, and Anabaptist perspectives influencing the larger climate conversation. We envision the church responding to climate change as a moral equivalent to peacebuilding.

We work towards these goals in four ways: 1. **Students** raise the level of climate conversation at Anabaptist colleges and universities, and build capacity for climate leadership by supporting and training students. 2. **Congregations** send people to retreats where church leaders talk theology, science, emotions and church realities with the goal of moving congregations towards deeper action. 3. **Global Voices** of people from the south motivate communities through the stories and perspectives of those most affected by climate change. 4. **Innovative solutions** creates original research that produces viable solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.

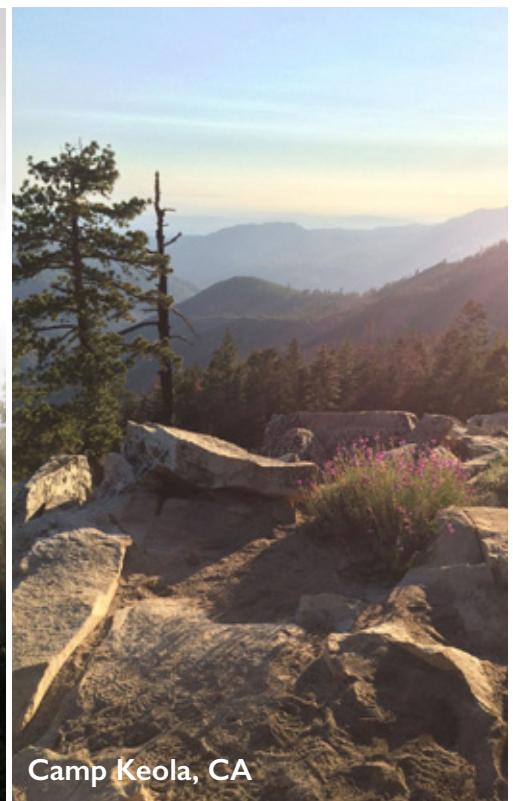
Questions? Contact Anna Ruth Hershberger at advancement@sustainableclimatesolutions.org.



Highland Retreat, VA



Camp Squeah, BC



Camp Keola, CA



Pine Lake, MS